AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3. These sheets, which include Figure 3, replace the original sheets including Fig. 3. Element 343 has been changed from "Messaging Server" to "Messaging Client" as indicated in the specification at least in paragraphs [0060], [0064] and [0078].

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action, mailed August 13, 2007, considered claims 1-49. Claims 1-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,249,175 to Albert L. Donaldson, hereinafter *Donaldson*.

By this amendment claims 1, 10, 22, 39, 42 and 46 have been amended.[1] No claims have been added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-49 are pending, of which claims 1, 10, 22, 39, 42 and 46 are the only independent claims at issue.

Initially, Applicants respectfully submit that the *Donaldson* reference does not qualify as anticipatory art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) at least with respect to claims 1-8 and 39-41. For a reference to qualify under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipatory art, the reference must teach every element of the claim (see MPEP 2131). As stated by the Examiner on p.3 of the Office Action, *Donaldson* does not teach the claim element of generating an appropriate connection response based on the address validation data, as recited in claim 1. Thus, at least with respect to claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8, as well as claim 39 which corresponds to claim 1, and its dependent claims 40-41, *Donaldson* does not qualify as anticipatory art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection to claims 1-8 and 39-41 be withdrawn.

The present invention is generally directed to indicating to a receiving computer system that the sending computer system is receiving connection responses from the receiving computer system. For example, claim 1 defines sending connection initiation data to a receiving computer system, the connection initiation data including a purported sending address. Next, claim 1 defines receiving altered connection establishment data that includes address validation data and a random sequence of characters, such that the inclusion of the random sequence of characters substantially decreases the likelihood of providing an appropriate connection response without knowing that the random sequence of characters is to be provided in the connection response.

Claim 1 further defines generating an appropriate connection response based on the address validation data and the random sequence of characters, the response including the random sequence of characters in a form recognized by the receiving computer system as an appropriate form. Lastly, claim 1 defines sending the appropriate connection response data to the receiving computer system.

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[1] Support for the amendments to the claims are found throughout the specification and previously presented claims, including but not limited to paragraphs [0053], [0055], [0056], [0058] and Figures 1-3.

Claim 10 is a method claim similar to claim 1, but from the perspective of a receiving computer system. Claim 39 is a computer program product claim generally corresponding to claim 1. Claim 42 is a computer program product claim generally corresponding to claim 10.

Claim 22 is a method claim generally directed toward determining if a sending messaging server is authorized to send electronic messages for a sending domain. Claim 22 includes an act of receiving an electronic message purportedly sent from the sending domain, the electronic message including a random sequence of characters, such that the inclusion of the random sequence of characters substantially decreases the likelihood of providing an appropriate connection response without knowing that the random sequence of characters is to be provided in the connection response.

Claim 22 further includes acts of examining a plurality of parameter values of the electronic message including the random sequence of characters to attempt to identify an actual sending side network address corresponding to a sending computer system, querying a name server for a list of network addresses authorized to send electronic messages for the sending domain, determining if the actual sending side network address is authorized to send electronic messages for the sending domain based on the query and on the inclusion of the random sequence of characters in a form recognized by the receiving domain as an appropriate form and providing results of the determination to an message classification module such that the message classification module can make a more reliable decision as to classifying the received electronic message. Claim 46 is a computer program product claim generally corresponding to claim 22.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art of record does not anticipate or otherwise render the amended claims unpatentable for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose, suggest, or enable each and every element of these claims.

Donaldson describes a method and system for filtering undesirable email with forged, non-existent sender addresses, without sending a message to that sender (Abs.). A server or proxy establishes a connection to an authorized mail host of the domain in the received email during the protocol setup phase. The proxy uses the connection to determine if the mail host will accept mail for the sender's address (Col. 16:44-58). For example, if sender@domain.com sends an email, before accepting the email and during the protocol setup phase, the receiving server will send a query to the mail server for domain.com to determine whether domain.com will accept mail for sender. If the domain will accept mail for that sender, the message is flagged as legitimate and not spam.

Donaldson, however, fails to teach or suggest receiving altered connection establishment data that includes address validation data and a random sequence of characters, such that the inclusion of the random sequence of characters substantially decreases the likelihood of providing an appropriate connection response without knowing that the random sequence of characters is to be provided in the connection response, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, *Donaldson* fails to teach or suggest generating an appropriate connection response based on the address validation data and the random sequence of characters, the response including the random sequence of characters in a form recognized by the receiving computer system as an appropriate form, as recited in claim 1. At least for either of these reasons, claim 1 patentably defines over the art of record. At least for either of these reasons, claims 10, 22, 39, 42 and 46 also patentably define over the art of record. Since each of the dependent claims depend from one of claims 1, 10, 22, 39, 42 and 46, each of the dependent claims also patentably define over the art of record for at least either of the same reasons.

Although each of the dependent claims patentably define over the prior art of record for the same reasons as their corresponding base claims, many of the dependent claims also independently distinguish over the prior art of record. For example, the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest generating an appropriate connection response wherein the appropriate connection response is selected from among resending the connection initiation data and sending a network packet with an appropriate acknowledgment sequence number, as recited in claim 6.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (801) 533-9800.

Dated this 13th day of November, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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Registration No. 57,354
Attorneys for Applicant
Customer No. 47973

RDN:GRL:ds
DS0000008219V001

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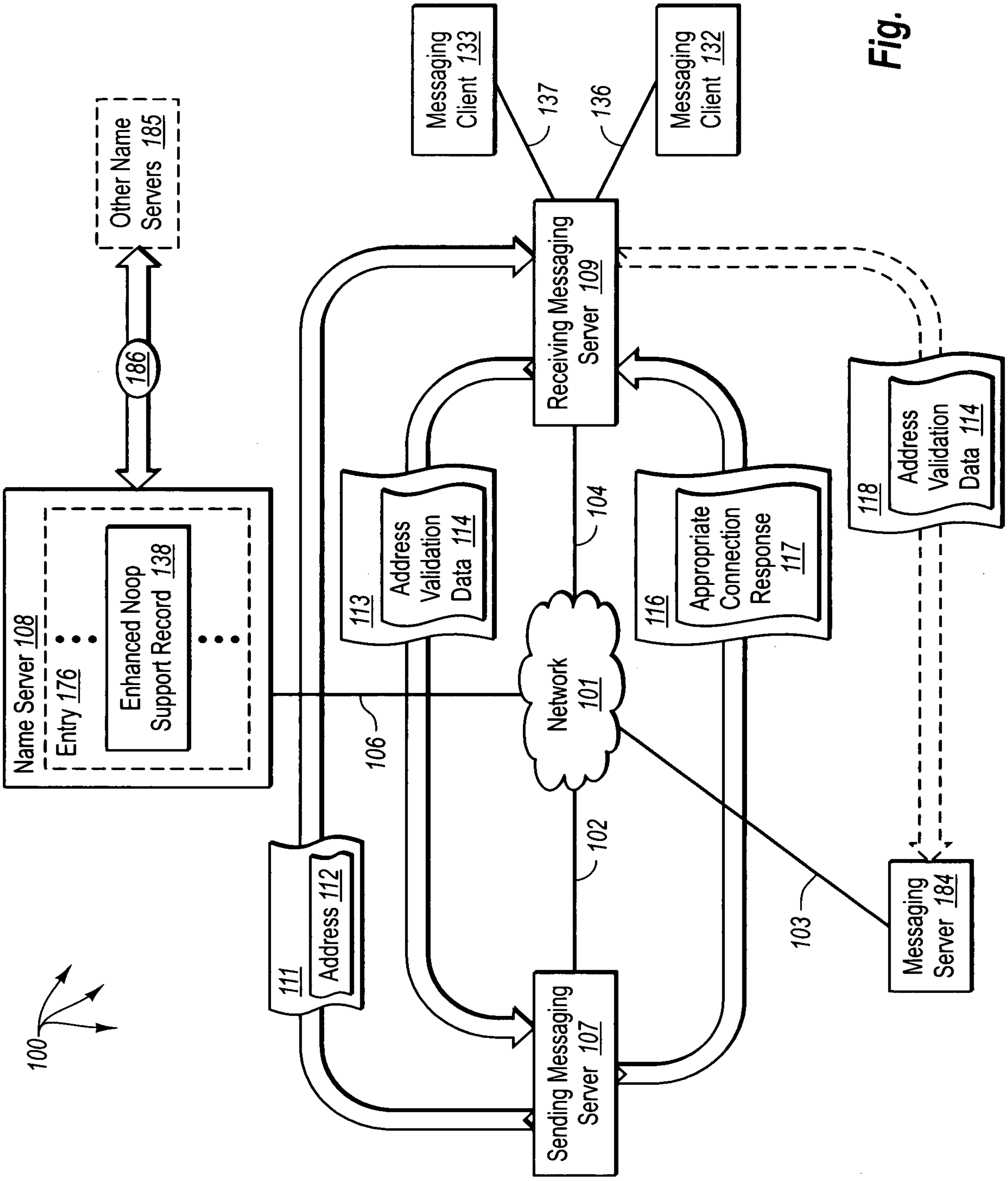
Other Name Servers 185
186
Name Server 108
Entry 176
Enhanced Noop Support Record 138
106
Messaging Client 133
Messaging Client 132
137
136
Receiving Messaging Server 109
104
113
Address Validation Data 114
116
Appropriate Connection Response 117
118
Address Validation Data 114
Network 101
102
103
111
Address 112
Sending Messaging Server 107
Messaging Server 184
100

Fig. 1

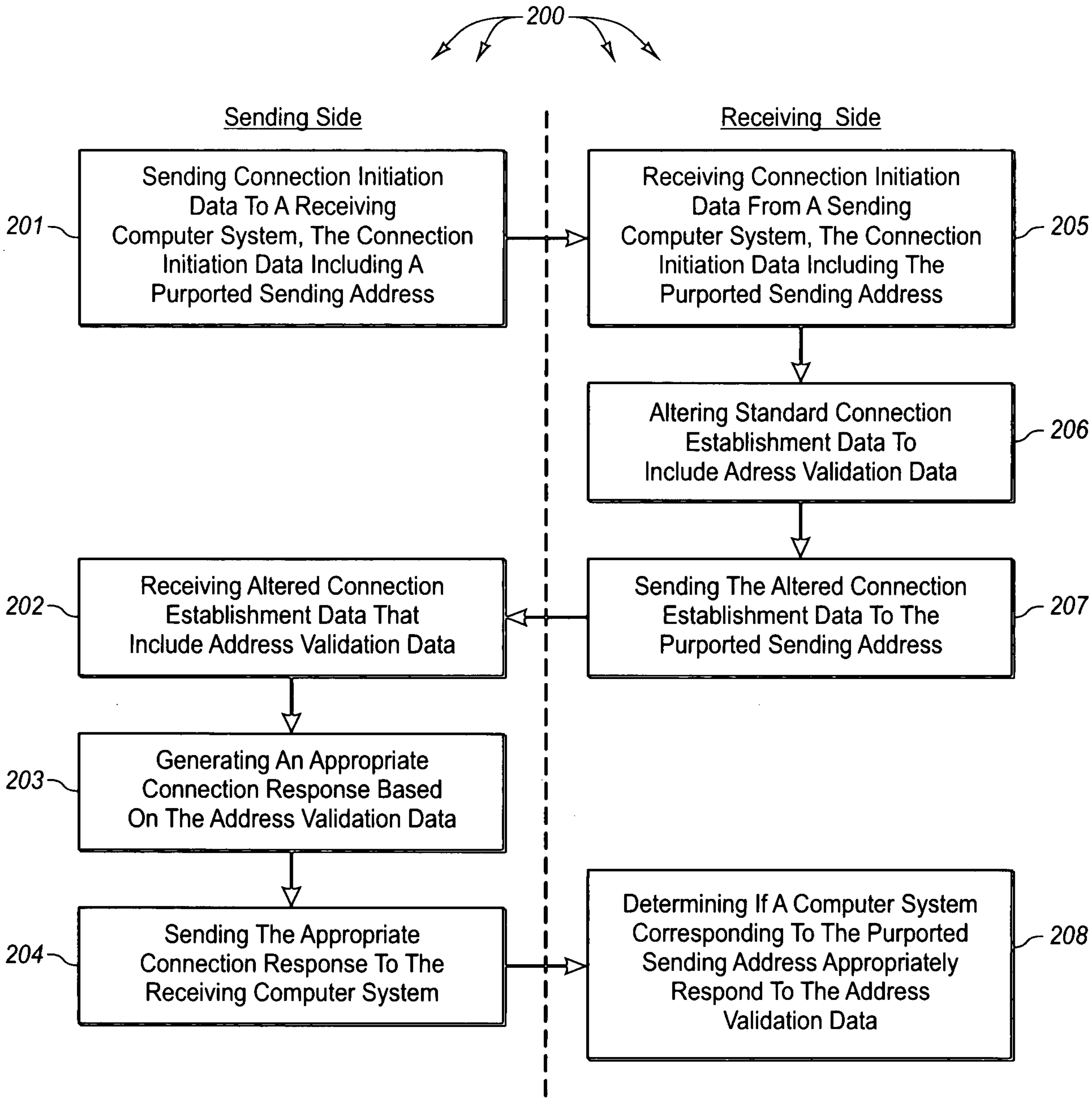
200
Sending Side
Receiving Side
201
Sending Connection Initiation Data To A Receiving Computer System, The Connection Initiation Data Including A Purported Sending Address
205
Receiving Connection Initiation Data From A Sending Computer System, The Connection Initiation Data Including The Purported Sending Address
206
Altering Standard Connection Establishment Data To Include Adress Validation Data
202
Receiving Altered Connection Establishment Data That Include Address Validation Data
207
Sending The Altered Connection Establishment Data To The Purported Sending Address
203
Generating An Appropriate Connection Response Based On The Address Validation Data
204
Sending The Appropriate Connection Response To The Receiving Computer System
208
Determining If A Computer System Corresponding To The Purported Sending Address Appropriately Respond To The Address Validation Data

Fig. 2

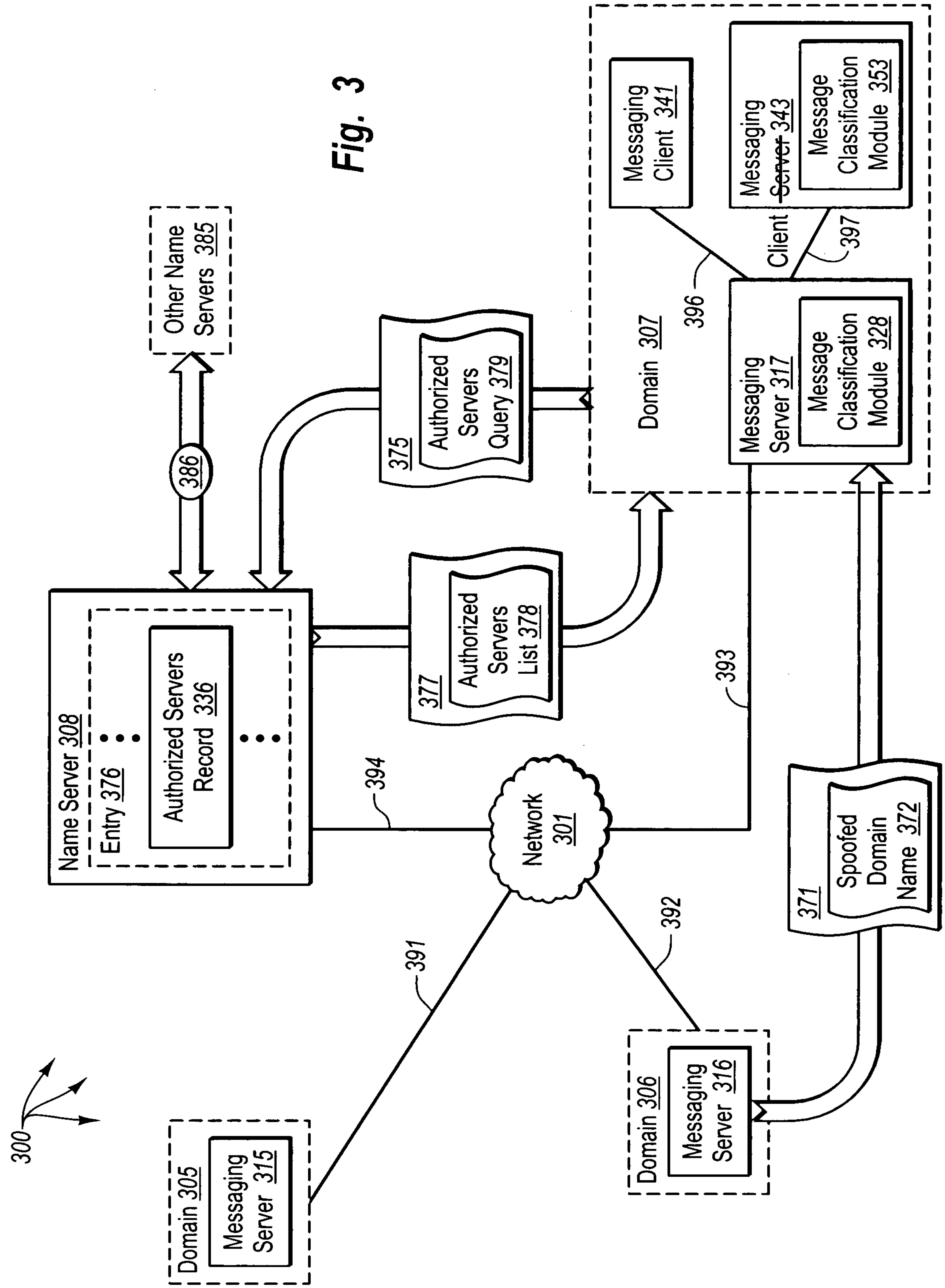
300
Domain 305
Messaging Server 315
391
Network 301
392
Domain 306
Messaging Server 316
371
Spoofed Domain Name 372
394
Name Server 308
Entry 376
Authorized Servers Record 336
386
Other Name Servers 385
377
Authorized Servers List 378
375
Authorized Servers Query 379
393
Domain 307
Messaging Server 317
Message Classification Module 328
396
Messaging Client 341
Messaging ~~Server~~ Client 343
Message Classification Module 353
397

Fig. 3

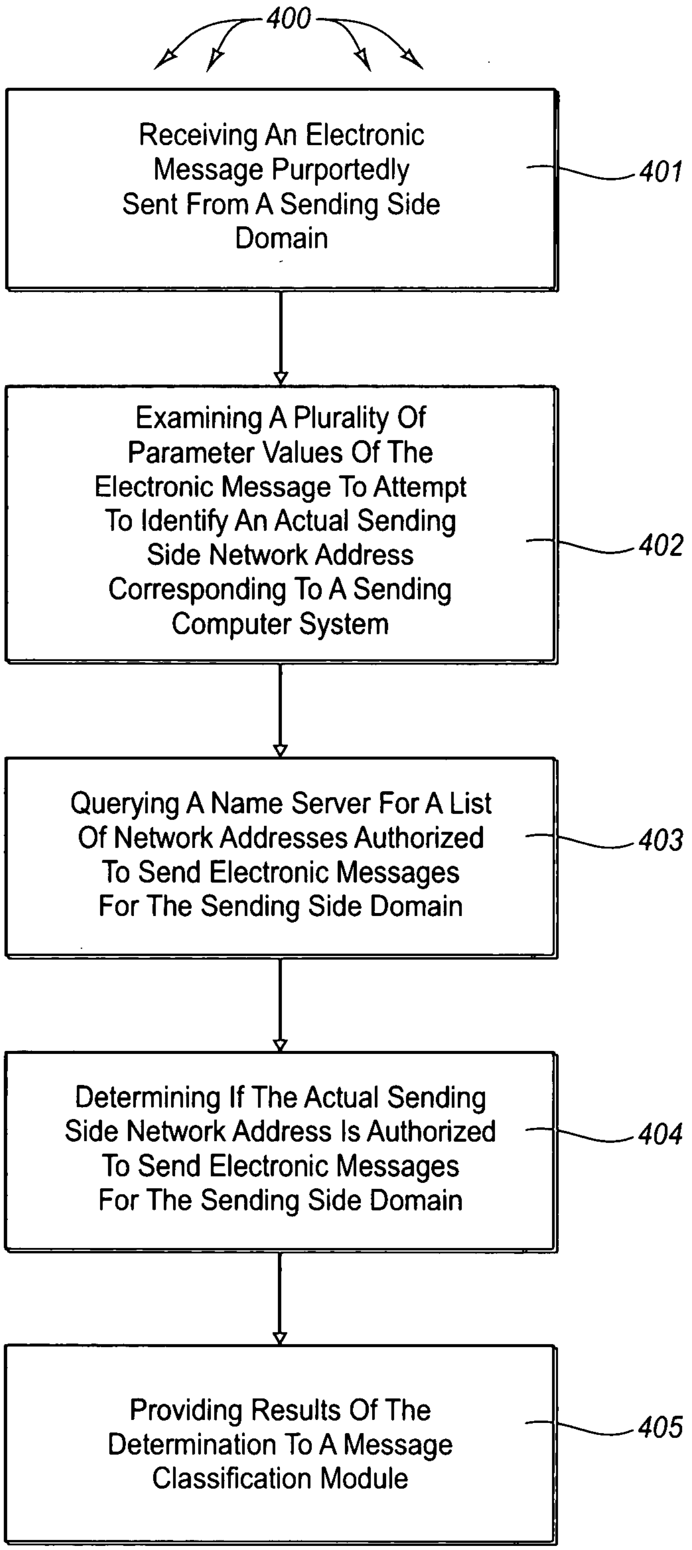
400
Receiving An Electronic Message Purportedly Sent From A Sending Side Domain
401
Examining A Plurality Of Parameter Values Of The Electronic Message To Attempt To Identify An Actual Sending Side Network Address Corresponding To A Sending Computer System
402
Querying A Name Server For A List Of Network Addresses Authorized To Send Electronic Messages For The Sending Side Domain
403
Determining If The Actual Sending Side Network Address Is Authorized To Send Electronic Messages For The Sending Side Domain
404
Providing Results Of The Determination To A Message Classification Module
405

Fig. 4

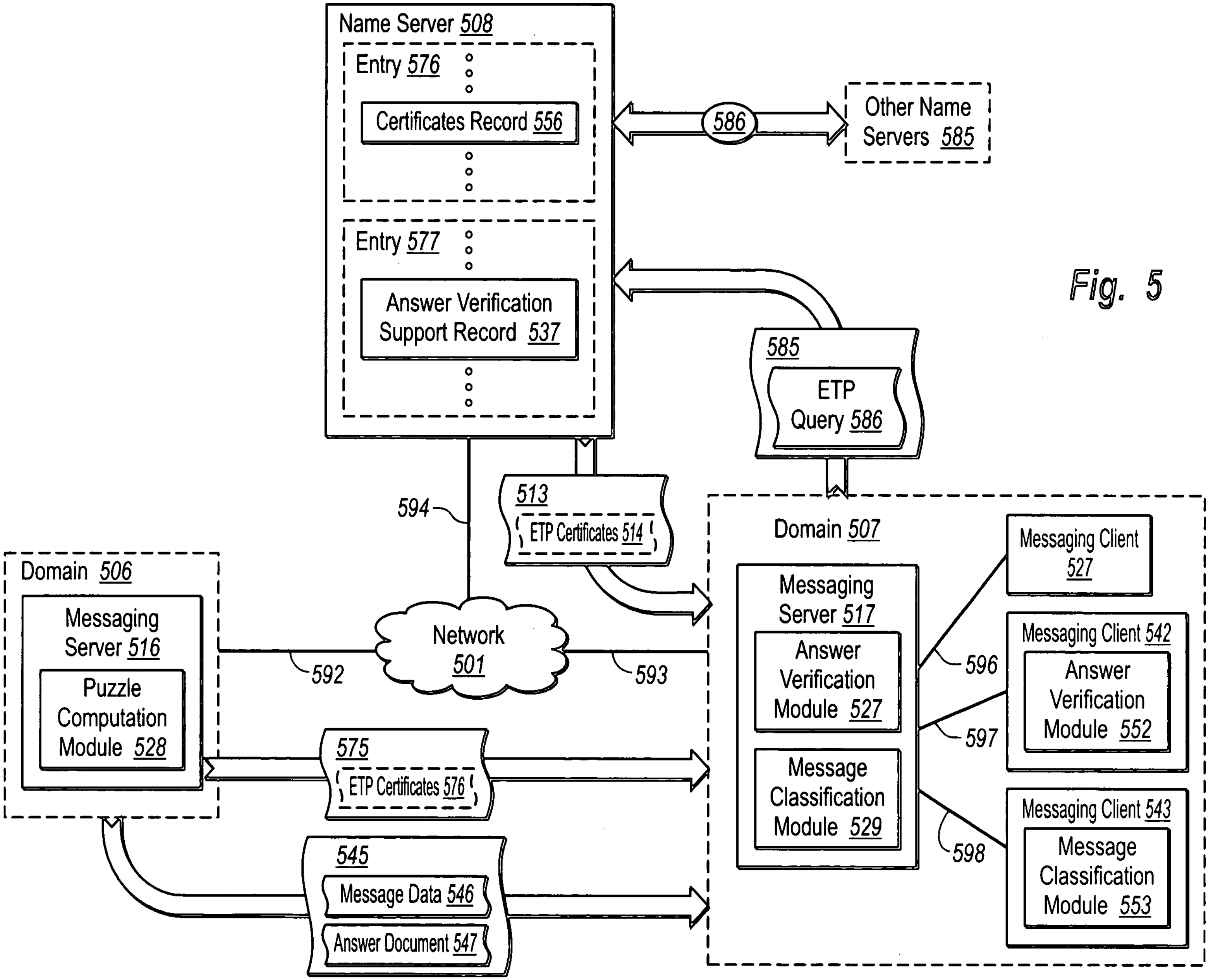
Name Server 508
Entry 576
Certificates Record 556
Entry 577
Answer Verification Support Record 537
586
Other Name Servers 585
585
ETP Query 586
594
513
ETP Certificates 514
Domain 506
Messaging Server 516
Puzzle Computation Module 528
Network 501
592
593
575
ETP Certificates 576
545
Message Data 546
Answer Document 547
Domain 507
Messaging Server 517
Answer Verification Module 527
Message Classification Module 529
Messaging Client 527
Messaging Client 542
Answer Verification Module 552
Messaging Client 543
Message Classification Module 553
596
597
598

Fig. 5

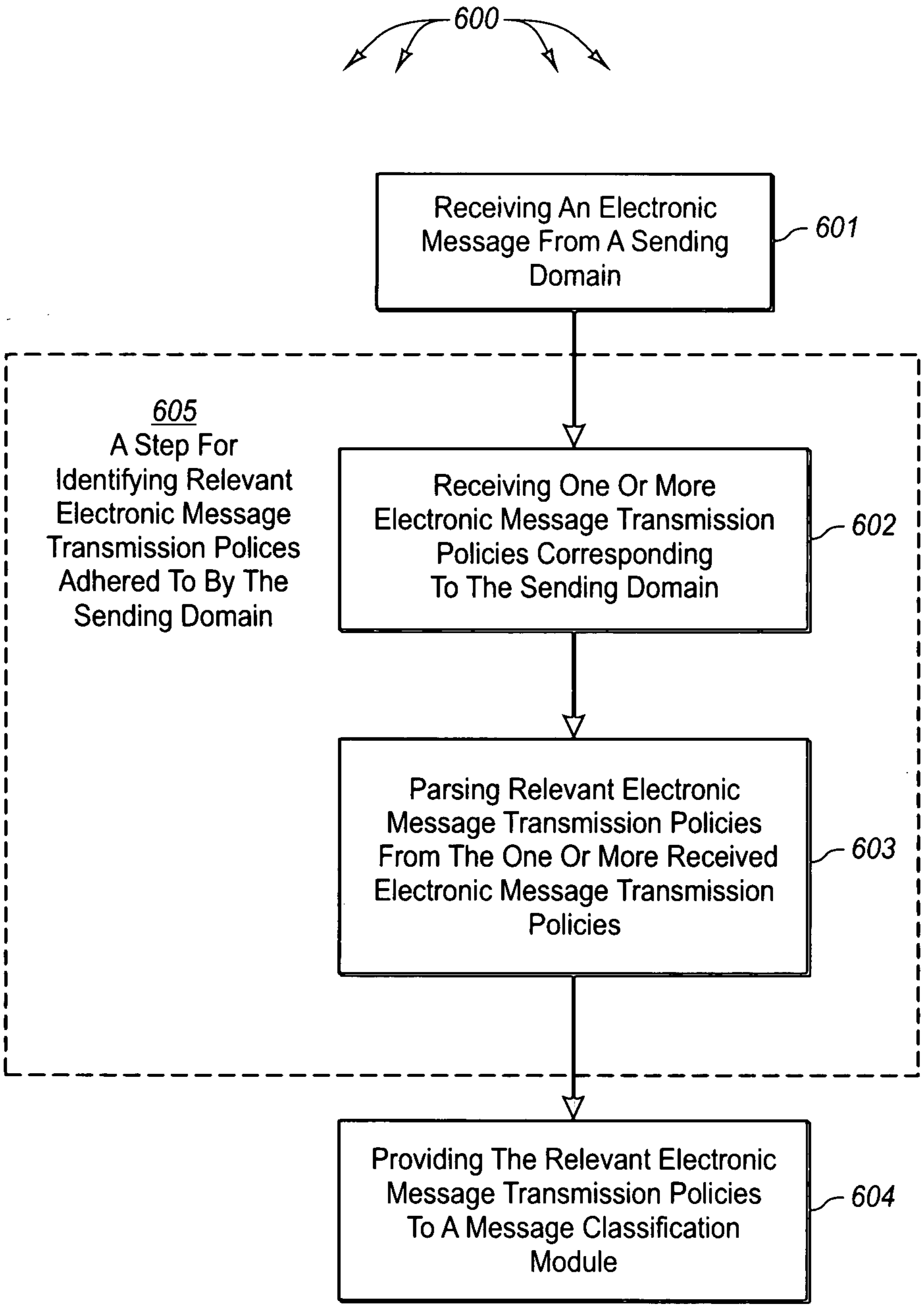
600
Receiving An Electronic Message From A Sending Domain
601
605
A Step For Identifying Relevant Electronic Message Transmission Polices Adhered To By The Sending Domain
Receiving One Or More Electronic Message Transmission Policies Corresponding To The Sending Domain
602
Parsing Relevant Electronic Message Transmission Policies From The One Or More Received Electronic Message Transmission Policies
603
Providing The Relevant Electronic Message Transmission Policies To A Message Classification Module
604

Fig. 6

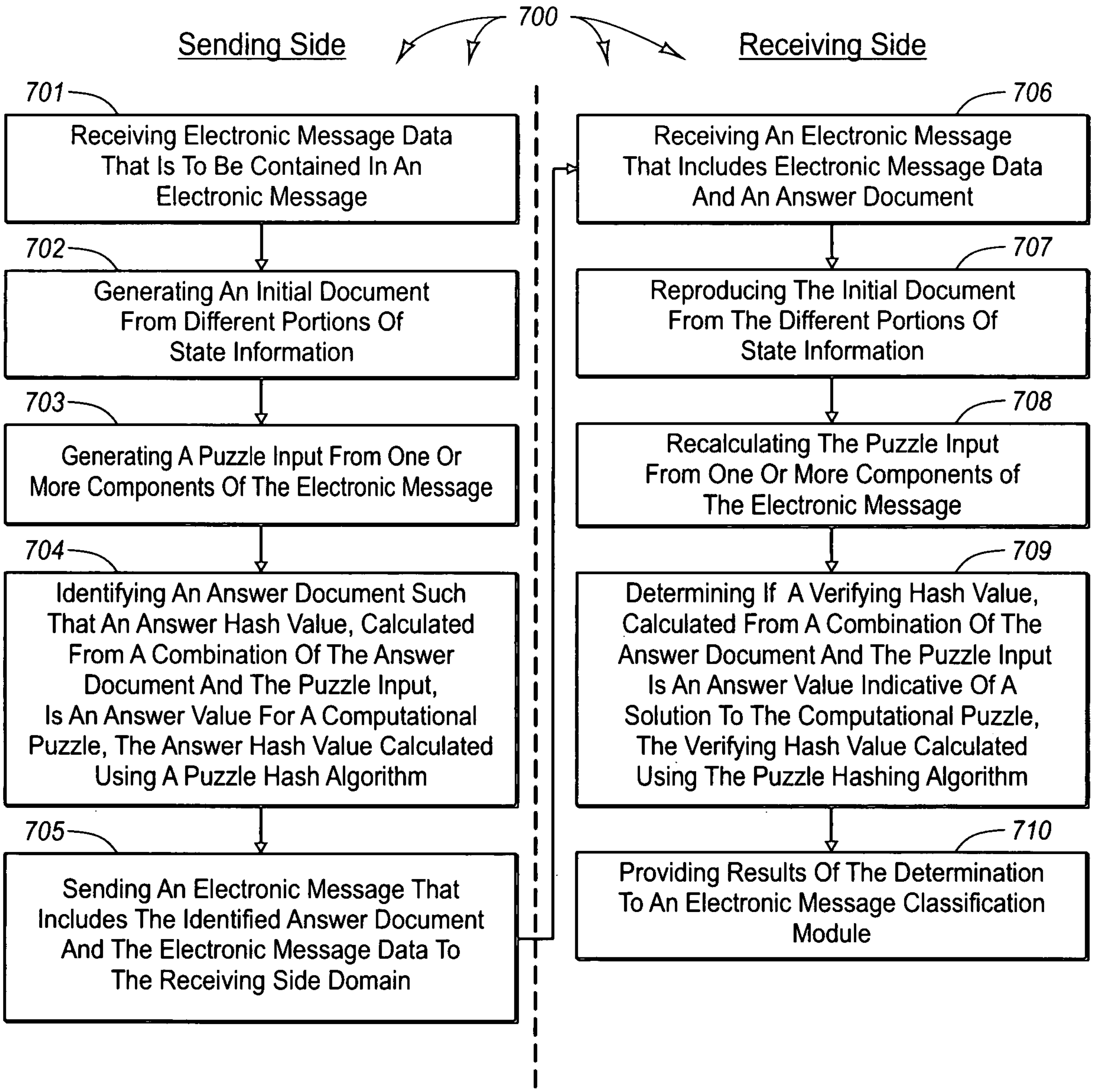
700
Sending Side
Receiving Side
701
Receiving Electronic Message Data That Is To Be Contained In An Electronic Message
702
Generating An Initial Document From Different Portions Of State Information
703
Generating A Puzzle Input From One Or More Components Of The Electronic Message
704
Identifying An Answer Document Such That An Answer Hash Value, Calculated From A Combination Of The Answer Document And The Puzzle Input, Is An Answer Value For A Computational Puzzle, The Answer Hash Value Calculated Using A Puzzle Hash Algorithm
705
Sending An Electronic Message That Includes The Identified Answer Document And The Electronic Message Data To The Receiving Side Domain
706
Receiving An Electronic Message That Includes Electronic Message Data And An Answer Document
707
Reproducing The Initial Document From The Different Portions Of State Information
708
Recalculating The Puzzle Input From One Or More Components of The Electronic Message
709
Determining If A Verifying Hash Value, Calculated From A Combination Of The Answer Document And The Puzzle Input Is An Answer Value Indicative Of A Solution To The Computational Puzzle, The Verifying Hash Value Calculated Using The Puzzle Hashing Algorithm
710
Providing Results Of The Determination To An Electronic Message Classification Module

Fig. 7

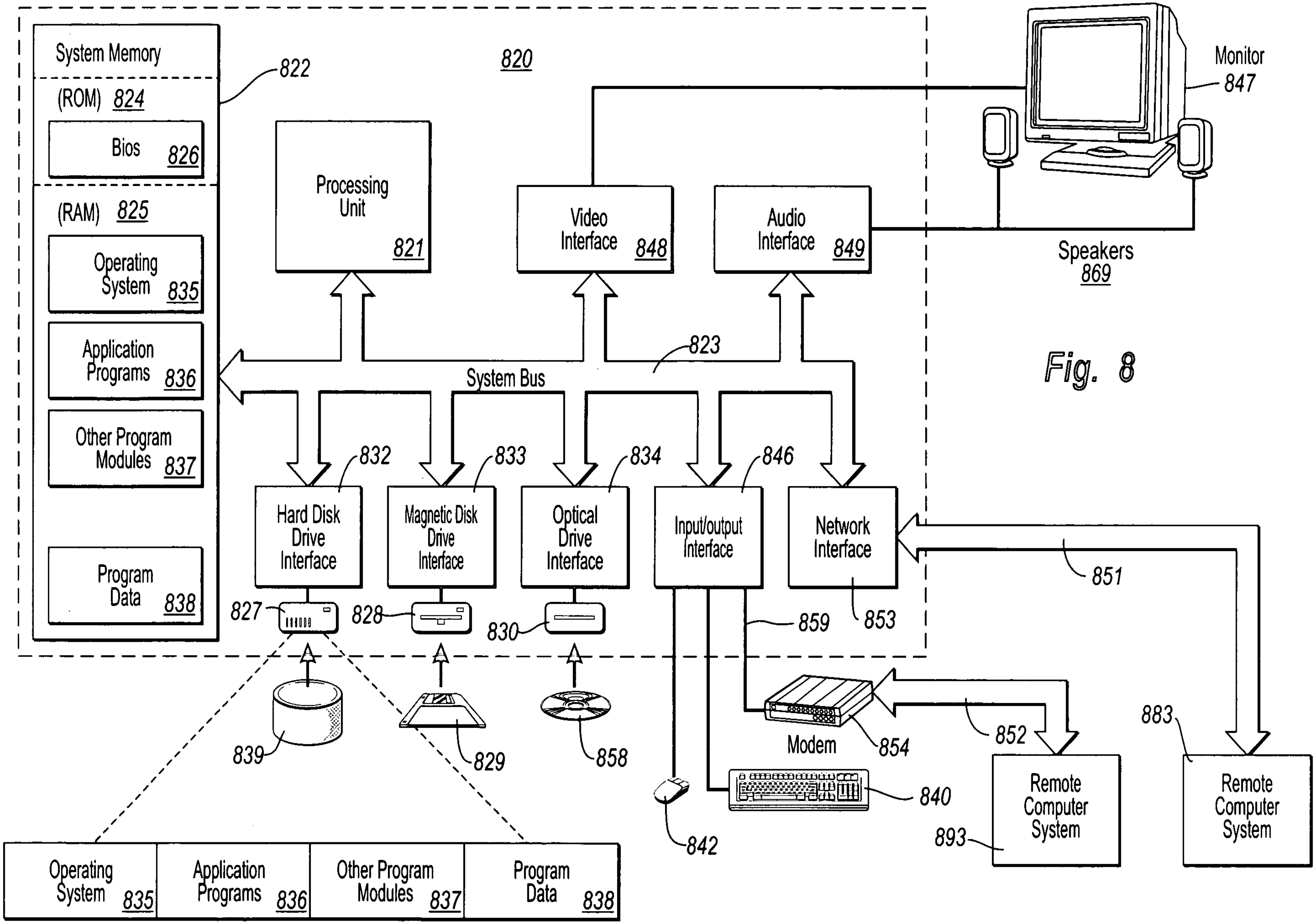
System Memory
822
(ROM) 824
Bios 826
(RAM) 825
Operating System 835
Application Programs 836
Other Program Modules 837
Program Data 838
820
Processing Unit 821
Video Interface 848
Audio Interface 849
Monitor 847
Speakers 869
823
System Bus
832
833
834
846
Hard Disk Drive Interface
Magnetic Disk Drive Interface
Optical Drive Interface
Input/output Interface
Network Interface
851
827
828
830
859
853
839
829
858
Modem
854
852
883
840
842
893
Remote Computer System
Remote Computer System
Operating System 835
Application Programs 836
Other Program Modules 837
Program Data 838

Fig. 8